

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You are blessed from the rising to the setting of the sun each day all around the world.

Today, as the United States Capitol recognizes Korean War Armistice Day and honors over 6 million Americans who served in the Korean War, 56 years later, we once more decry the price and pain of war, applaud the bravery of those who served in the military, and pray for peace in Asia and around the world.

We commend to Your compassionate and faithful love all Korean War veterans, their families and the comrades made during the years of conflict. We pray also for the people of North and South Korea, for separated families and for those once lost and now forgotten by all except You, Almighty God.

Show Your eternal mercy upon all Your people both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOOZMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE
MATH

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, some are urging Congress to back a \$1 trillion government health care bill because

they claim 50 million Americans are uninsured. But when you hear the rest of the story, the numbers fall apart. While the Census reports that 45.7 million people lacked insurance during some portion of the year, we find that 9.5 million are non-citizens or illegal aliens, 12 million are eligible for public programs but have not bothered to enroll, 9 million lacked insurance for less than a year, and 7.3 million make over \$84,000 a year but have chosen not to buy insurance.

When you do that math, you find that there are 7.8 million lower-income, long-term, uninsured American citizens. But this smaller number is not big enough to justify \$1 trillion and raising your taxes to rates higher than France, which is why congressional leaders hope you do not look under the hood of their bill or the numbers they use to justify it.

WE NEED TO START OVER
TOGETHER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is bipartisan concern in Congress and across America that the House Democrat leadership's health bill will drive up short-term deficits and long-term debt, ration care with waiting lists, and destroy jobs. Some estimates range from 1.6 million by the NFIB to 4.7 million jobs lost due to this legislation.

There is a better, more positive way to approach health care reform, and it starts by sitting down in a bipartisan way to build a consensus. We all believe the status quo is unacceptable, that we must work to make health care more affordable, accessible and of the highest quality.

Republicans have offered a set of proposals we feel can expand accessibility for individuals and small businesses while preserving the doctor-patient relationship. We should promote health care reform, but we should not sacrifice quality and choice just for an arbitrary timeline.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Democrats released a thousand-page-plus health care bill that will cost in the order of \$1.5 trillion and will allow for the Federal Government to nationalize health care in America I hope the American people will learn more about this bill before it is voted on the House floor here.

The Federal Government will eventually control almost 20 percent of our

GDP and will control every single doctor and patient health decision that's made in this country.

It's clear we must reform the country's health care delivery system, but in the process of expanding affordable access, we must not create a weaker, more expensive system that future generations will have to pay for. Eighty-three percent of Americans enjoy the health insurance they currently have. We must strengthen and expand our current health care system and not destroy it in favor of a \$1.5 trillion experiment.

CONGRATULATING MERLIN WALTERS ON HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the service of Merlin Walters, who has distinguished himself as an exemplary citizen with 58 years of service to our country, five in the military and an astounding 53 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Walters served as a master mechanic in the Arkansas National Guard at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has committed himself as a public servant ever since. In 1956, President Eisenhower appointed him as a full-time carrier for the Hartman Post Office in Hartman, Arkansas. After 11 years of dedicated service, he was appointed to the office of Postmaster of Hartman by President Johnson. He has been a familiar face at the Hartman Post Office for 53 years, and at 89 years old, you can still find him there every day hard at work.

Mr. Walters said he always finds enjoyment in working at the post office in Hartman. He believes in working until the job is done and done right. His hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. I thank him for his service to the residents of Arkansas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

VETERANS' INSURANCE AND
HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS
ACT OF 2009

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3219) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the